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EXAMINER
NGUYEN BA, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/602,247	SEATTLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul Nguyen-Ba	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 April 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21,23 and 24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21,23 and 24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This action is responsive to Applicant Remarks, filed on 4/6/2005.

2. Claims 1-21, 23, and 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 16, and 17 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 17, 20, 21, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razin, U.S. Patent No. 6,125,377, in view of Felt et al. ("Felt"), U.S. Patent No. 6,092,092.

Independent Claim 1

Razin discloses *a system for improving formatting consistency within a document* (see Title and Abstract) *comprising:*

a formatting consistency checker operative for storing a formatting run (see col. 3, lines 28-41; col. 5, lines 1+ → i.e. Unknown Element Parsing) *in association with the location of the formatting run within a document* (see col. 11, lines 39-67 to col. 12, lines 1-47 → titles, sections, subsections, etc.)*; and*

a format checker operative to retrieve run location data from the format consistency checker (see col. 4, lines 5-11; col. 13, lines 49-52 → Linkage Rules Base)*, to determine a minority formatting instance, and to report a formatting inconsistency to a user* (see col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 14, lines 45-59 → i.e. proofreading).

Razin does not specifically disclose the system wherein the formatting run is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes. However, Felt discloses a system wherein the style information is organized into style runs associated with a contiguous group of characters having the same style (see Abstract; col. 5, lines 34-67 *et seq.*; see also Figs. 2-5) for the purpose of storing style information in a manner which allows both fast access to a specific character's style information and rapid modification of that information (col. 1, lines 14-17).

Since Razin and Felt are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Fein would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Razin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Felt to include a system wherein the style information is organized into style runs associated with a contiguous group of characters having the same style for the purpose of storing style information in a manner which allows both fast access to a specific character's style information and rapid modification of that information.

Claim 2

Razin further discloses the system of Claim 1, *wherein the formatting consistency checker comprises a data table* (see col. 3, lines 2-9 → i.e. RAM, etc) *to receive a formatting run in association with the location of the formatting run within a document* (see col. 11, lines 39-67 to col. 12, lines 1-47).

Claim 3

Razin further discloses the system of Claim 1, *wherein the formatting run comprises text within the document sharing one or more similar formatting properties* (see col. 5, lines 43-51; col. 13, lines 63-64).

Claim 4

Razin discloses the system of Claim 1, *wherein the format checker is further operative to provide the user with an opportunity to modify the formatting inconsistency* (see col. 10, lines 28-39; col. 11, lines 2-6; col. 14, lines 45-48 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification).

Claim 5

Razin discloses the system of Claim 1, *wherein the format checker is further operative to visually identify a formatting inconsistency to the user* (see generally Figure 5B and see col. 3,

lines 51-52; col. 4, lines 32-35; col. 14, lines 45-48 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification).

Claim 6

Razin discloses *the system of Claim 1, wherein the format checker comprises a set of consistency rules to compare run location data to and to determine a minority inconsistency* (see col. 3, lines 46-67 to col. 4, lines 1-34 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification).

Independent Claim 17

Razin discloses a *method for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising the steps of:*

determining a formatting run within a document (see col. 3, lines 28-41; col. 5, lines 1+ and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification);

comparing the formatting run to a consistency rule set (see col. 3, lines 46-67 to col. 4, lines 1-34 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification); *and*

determining whether an inconsistency with the consistency rule set exists (see col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 14, lines 45-59 → i.e. proofreading).

Razin does not specifically disclose the method wherein the formatting run is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes. However, Felt discloses a method wherein the style information is organized into style runs associated with a contiguous group of characters having the same style (see Abstract; col. 5, lines 34-67 *et seq.*;

see also Figs. 2-5) for the purpose of storing style information in a manner which allows both fast access to a specific character's style information and rapid modification of that information (col. 1, lines 14-17).

Since Razin and Felt are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Fein would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Razin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Felt to include a method wherein the style information is organized into style runs associated with a contiguous group of characters having the same style for the purpose of storing style information in a manner which allows both fast access to a specific character's style information and rapid modification of that information.

Claim 20

Razin discloses *the method further comprising the steps of determining whether the suggested case format is accepted by the user; in response to determining that the suggested case format is accepted, reformatting the minority case to the suggested case format* (see col. 10, lines 28-39; col. 11, lines 2-6; col. 14, lines 45-48 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification).

Claim 21

Razin further discloses *the method wherein the suggested case format is the majority case* (see col. 3, lines 45-51; col. 4, lines 13-27 and related discussion found elsewhere in the

specification) → Interpretation Rules Base first suggests majority case to link with unknown elements before initiating other rules tests.

Claim 23

Razin discloses *the method, wherein the majority case comprises a set of formatting properties that is associated with the most formatting runs in the document having an analogous formatting property* (see col. 3, lines 53-61 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification → i.e. Known Elements).

Claim 24

Razin discloses the method wherein the minority case comprises a set of formatting properties that is inconsistent with the majority case as the inconsistency is defined by the consistency rule set (see col. 3, lines 46-67 to col. 4, lines 1-34 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification).

5. Claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razin, U.S. Patent No. 6,125,377, in view of Newbold et al. ("Newbold"), U.S. Patent No. 5,576,955.

Claim 7

Razin discloses a system for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising: a formatting consistency checker operative for storing a formatting run (see col. 3,

lines 28-41; col. 5, lines 1+) in association with the location of the formatting run within a document (see col. 11, lines 39-67 to col. 12, lines 1-47); and a format checker operative to retrieve run location data from the format consistency checker (see col. 4, lines 5-11; col. 13, lines 49-52), to determine a minority formatting instance, and to report a formatting inconsistency to a user (see col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 14, lines 45-59).

Razin does not specifically disclose *the system further comprising a formatting pane operative to display a log of all formatting within a document, to display a formatting instance provided by the format checker, and to provide an interface for a user to select a particular formatting instance provided by the format checker.*

However, Newbold discloses a formatting pane operative to display a log of all formatting within a document, to display a formatting instance provided by the format checker, and to provide an interface for a user to select a particular formatting instance provided by the format checker for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see Abstract, col. 3, lines 63+; Figures 5B, 6A-2, 6B-2, 6C-2, 7A-2, 7B-2, 8B).

Since Razin and Newbold are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Fein would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Razin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include a formatting pane operative to display a log of all formatting within a document, to display a formatting instance provided by the format checker, and to provide an interface for a user to select a particular formatting instance provided by the format checker for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to

group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

Claim 8

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to modify the formatting of all formatting instances within the document in response to a user entry to the formatting pane.*

However, Newbold discloses a submenu operative to modify the formatting of all formatting instances within the document in response to a user entry to the formatting pane for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see col. 5, lines 39-44 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification → correct, auto correct).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include a submenu operative to modify the formatting of all formatting instances within the document in response to a user entry to the formatting pane for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

Claim 9

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to create a new style or set of formatting parameters within a*

style corresponding to a user selection of a particular formatting instance in the formatting pane.

However, Newbold discloses a submenu operative to creating a set of formatting parameters within a style corresponding to user selection of a particular formatting instance in the formatting pane for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see generally Figures; col. 4, lines 34+ → spacing, double word, etc.).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include a submenu operative to creating a set of formatting parameters within a style corresponding to user selection of a particular formatting instance in the formatting pane for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

Claim 10

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to change a set of formatting parameters to a previously defined style in response to a user entry to the formatting pane.*

However, Newbold discloses a submenu operative to change a set of formatting parameters to a previously defined style in response to a user entry to the formatting pane for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform

formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see col. 5, lines 36-41 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specifications → CorrectWithText, Ignore).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include a submenu operative to change a set of formatting parameters to a previously defined style in response to a user entry to the formatting pane for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

Claim 11

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to modify formatting runs of a selected formatting pane, and to create a new style having the set of formatting properties corresponding to the modified formatting runs.*

However, Newbold discloses a submenu operative to modify formatting runs of a selected formatting pane, and to create a new style having the set of formatting properties corresponding to the modified formatting runs for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see col. 5, lines 39-44 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification → Correct, AutoCorrect).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include

a submenu operative to modify formatting runs of a selected formatting pane, and to create a new style having the set of formatting properties corresponding to the modified formatting runs for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

Claim 12

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to remove a style from a document and to revert to runs previously associated with the deleted style, and further operative to remove a user's entry in the formatting pane and any formatting associated with the entry that has been applied to one or more formatting runs within the document.*

However, Newbold discloses a submenu operative to remove formatting from a document and to revert to runs previously associated with the deleted format, and further operative to remove a user's entry in the formatting pane and any formatting associated with the entry that has been applied to one or more formatting runs within the document for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see col. 5, lines 39-44 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification → Undo).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include a submenu operative to remove a style from a document and to revert to runs previously associated with the deleted styles, and further operative to remove a user's entry in the formatting

pane and any formatting associated with the entry that has been applied to one or more formatting runs within the document for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

Claim 19

Razin discloses *the method further comprising the steps of: revealing the minority case or majority case to a user* (see generally Figure 5B and see col. 3, lines 51-52; col. 4, lines 32-35; col. 14, lines 45-48 and related discussion found elsewhere in the specification), but does not specifically disclose the *offering* of *a suggested case format to the user.*

However, Newbold discloses the offering of a suggested case format to the user for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see Abstract, col. 3, lines 63+; Figures 5B, 6A-2, 6B-2, 6C-2, 7A-2, 7B-2, 8B).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include the offering of a suggested case format to the user for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies.

6. Claims 13, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razin, U.S. Patent No. 6,125,377, in view of Fein et al. ("Fein"), U.S. Patent No. 6,088,711.

Claim 13

Razin discloses a system for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising: a formatting consistency checker operative for storing a formatting run (see col. 3, lines 28-41; col. 5, lines 1+) in association with the location of the formatting run within a document (see col. 11, lines 39-67 to col. 12, lines 1-47); and a format checker operative to retrieve run location data from the format consistency checker (see col. 4, lines 5-11; col. 13, lines 49-52), to determine a minority formatting instance, and to report a formatting inconsistency to a user (see col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 14, lines 45-59).

Razin does not specifically disclose *the system of further comprising a bullets and numbering component operative to receive a user addition of bullets and/or numbering to the document, to determine whether other instances of bulleting and/or numbering exist in the document, and to identify a majority case of prior instances of bulleting and/or numbering within the document.*

However, Fein discloses a system for defining and applying a style to a paragraph (see Title and Abstract) wherein at decision step, it is determined whether all the major formatting properties (i.e. bullet character, number scheme, etc.) match all the major formatting properties of the existing style (see col. 7, lines 52, 55; col. 8 – Table 1) for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

Since Razin and Fein are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Fein would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Razin. It would have been obvious at the

time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Fein to include a numbering component operative to receive a user addition of bullets and/or numbering to the document, to determine whether other instances of bulleting and/or numbering exist in the document, and to identify a majority case of prior instances of bulleting and/or numbering within the document for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

Claim 14

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the bullets and numbering component is further operative for applying the majority case of bulleting and/or numbering to the user addition of bullets and/or numbering in the document.*

However, Fein discloses a system for defining and applying a style to a paragraph (see Title and Abstract) wherein at decision step, *if* it is determined whether all the major formatting properties (i.e. bullet character, number scheme, etc.) match all the major formatting properties of the existing style (see col. 7, lines 52, 55; col. 8 – Table 1), then the system applies the majority case of the matching existing style (see Figure 2A; col. 8, lines 52+) for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Fein to include a numbering component operative for applying the majority case of bulleting and/or numbering to the user addition of bullets and/or numbering in the document for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

Claim 15

Razin also does not specifically disclose *the system wherein the bullets and numbering component is further operative for applying a predefined default format of bulleting and/or numbering to the user addition of bullets and/or numbering in the document.*

However, Fein discloses a system for defining and applying a style to a paragraph (see Title and Abstract) wherein at decision step, it is determined whether to apply the predefined default format of bullet characters and/or number schemes to match all the formatting properties of the existing style (see col. 7, lines 52, 55; col. 8 – Table 1; Figure 2A; col. 8, lines 52+) for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Fein to include a numbering component operative for applying a predefined default format of bulleting and/or numbering to the user addition of bullets and/or numbering in the document for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

7. Claim 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razin, U.S. Patent No. 6,125,377, in view of Felt et al. ("Felt"), U.S. Patent No. 6,092,092, in further view of Newbold et al. ("Newbold"), U.S. Patent No. 5,576,955, and in further view of Fein et al. ("Fein"), U.S. Patent No. 6,088,711.

Independent Claim 16

Razin discloses a system for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising: a formatting consistency checker operative for storing a formatting run (see col. 3, lines 28-41; col. 5, lines 1+) in association with the location of the formatting run within a document (see col. 11, lines 39-67 to col. 12, lines 1-47); and a format checker in communication with the format consistency checker, operative to retrieve run location data from the format consistency checker (see col. 4, lines 5-11; col. 13, lines 49-52), to determine a minority formatting instance, and to report a formatting inconsistency to a user (see col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 14, lines 45-59).

Razin does not specifically disclose the system wherein the formatting run is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes. However, Felt discloses a system wherein the style information is organized into style runs associated with a contiguous group of characters having the same style (see Abstract; col. 5, lines 34-67 *et seq.*; see also Figs. 2-5) for the purpose of storing style information in a manner which allows both fast access to a specific character's style information and rapid modification of that information (col. 1, lines 14-17).

Since Razin and Felt are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Fein would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Razin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Felt to include a system wherein the style information is organized into style runs associated with a contiguous group of characters having the same style for the purpose of storing style information in a manner which allows both fast access to a specific character's style information and rapid modification of that information.

Razin does not specifically disclose *a formatting pane in communication with the format consistency checker, operative to provide an accessible log of all formatting within the document, and further operative to provide a user interface for a user to input a format selection to the document* and Razin does not specifically disclose *a bullets and numbering component in communication with the format consistency checker, operative to determine a majority case for bullets and/or numbering formatting previously applied in the document, and further operative to display the majority case of bullets and/or numbering formatting to the user.*

However, Newbold discloses a formatting pane operative to display a log of all formatting within a document, to display a formatting instance provided by the format checker, and to provide an interface for a user to select a particular formatting instance provided by the format checker for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies (see Abstract, col. 3, lines 63+; Figures 5B, 6A-2, 6B-2, 6C-2, 7A-2, 7B-2, 8B).

Fein discloses a system for defining and applying a style to a paragraph (see Title and Abstract) wherein at decision step, it is determined whether all the major formatting properties (i.e. bullet character, number scheme, etc.) match all the major formatting properties of the existing style (see col. 7, lines 52, 55; col. 8 – Table 1) for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

Since Razin, Newbold, and Fein are all from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Fein and Newbold would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Razin. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Newbold to include a formatting

pane operative to display a log of all formatting within a document, to display a formatting instance provided by the format checker, and to provide an interface for a user to select a particular formatting instance provided by the format checker for the purpose of viewing inconsistencies as a list, to group the inconsistencies, and to perform formatting consistency functions collectively on the group of inconsistencies and it would also have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Razin with the teachings of Fein to include a numbering component operative to receive a user addition of bullets and/or numbering to the document, to determine whether other instances of bulleting and/or numbering exist in the document, and to identify a majority case of prior instances of bulleting and/or numbering within the document for the purpose of improving format consistency within a document.

Claim 18

Razin also discloses the method further comprising the step of: in response to determining that an inconsistency exists, identifying a minority case or a majority case (see col. 4, lines 12-26 → checks to see of known elements are consistent with majority case; if not, elements are deemed minority case).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/6/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

9. Applicant first contends that *Razin*'s teaching is in direct contradistinction to the present invention as defined in Claims 1 et al., wherein the formatting run "is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes." (Applicant Remarks – pg. 4 ¶ 1).

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Razin identifies the structure and significant units of text within an unknown, user document (see col. 1 lines 7-10). In furtherance of this objective, Razin teaches a rules-based interpretation of document text which aims to gather attributes of the text (including length, formatting, etc.) (see col. 5 lines 65 *et seq.*). Therefore, the parsing rules base in Razin is implemented in order to determine text length formatting styles within a text document. It follows that Razin is not in direct contradistinction to the present invention; in fact, Razin suggests choosing formatting runs.

Applicant further contends that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have sought to modify *Razin* by choosing a formatting run as the "smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes." (Applicant's Remarks – pgs. 4 and 5)

It is Examiner's opinion that the purpose of allowing both fast access to a specific character's style information (i.e. inconsistencies, etc.) and rapid modification of that information would be sufficient motivation to combine *Razin* and *Felt*. *Razin* teaches a system and method of interpreting elements of a document and identifying inconsistencies in the documents based upon predetermined criteria (see Razin Abstract). *Felt* teaches a system and

method of identifying "runs" of text having the same character style information (see Felt Abstract).

Therefore, in view of Felt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to set the interpretation rule in *Razin* of maximum length of text to infinite or to disable that criteria in order to allow an additional of an interpretation rule (i.e. criteria) that finds the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes as taught by *Felt*.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094. The examiner can normally be reached on 11 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB

William L. Bashore

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PRIMARY EXAMINER
6/27/2005